

CLAIMS:

1. A family of complex systems having a shared family architecture and wherein
 - a component framework supports participating plug-in components
 - individual plug-in components provides one or more services and
 - the component framework defines roles providing one or more common interfaces forservices of several plug-in components.
2. A complex system being a member of the family as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the component framework includes an inventory function for assessing available services in the participating plug-in components.
3. A complex system as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the inventory function is arranged for initializing the services.
4. A complex system as Claimed in Claim 2 wherein the inventory function is arranged to asses available services at initialization of the system or during run-time of the system.
5. A complex system as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the inventory function is arranged to maintain a list of the available services.
6. A family of complex systems as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the family members are medical diagnostic systems, in particular x-ray examination apparatus.
7. A complex system, in particular an x-ray examination apparatus having software architecture and wherein
 - a component framework supports participating plug-in components
 - individual plug-in components provides one or more services and
 - the component framework defines roles provides one or more common interfaces forservices of several plug-in components.